

T-570

c. 1860

Galt House

St. Michaels

private

The Galt house (known historically as the Alexander H. Seth house) is a prominent mid nineteenth-century frame house that stands on the corner of Cherry and Cedar streets in the northern neighborhood of St. Michaels. The standard two-story, three-bay main block is covered by an atypical hip roof which survives with its seamed tin sheathing. Other significant features include the period turned post front porch, nine-over-nine and six-over-six sash, and a story-and-a-half service wing. The interior has survived with a large portion of its period woodwork as well. The stair location between the dining room and the north wall is an unusual variation of the center hall plan. The stair was obviously enclosed to clear the passage of any obstructions.

Construction of this fine house is credited to Alexander H. Seth, who purchased the corner lot from Thomas Auld and his wife, Ann, in 1859 for \$350 (68/441). Seven years later the property entered Talbot County's circuit court, eventually to be sold to Sarah Wrightson for \$2400. (74/147). Close to a dozen owners have held title to the property since the post-Civil War period.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. T-570

Magi No. 2105705504

DOE   yes Xno

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Alexander H. Seth Houseand/or common Galt House

## 2. Location

street & number 105 Cherry Street    not for publicationcity, town St. Michaels    vicinity of    congressional district Firststate Maryland county Talbot

## 3. Classification

| Category             | Ownership                  | Status                      | Present Use             |                            |
|----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| <u>  </u> district   | <u>  </u> public           | <u>X</u> occupied           | <u>  </u> agriculture   | <u>  </u> museum           |
| <u>X</u> building(s) | <u>X</u> private           | <u>  </u> unoccupied        | <u>  </u> commercial    | <u>  </u> park             |
| <u>  </u> structure  | <u>  </u> both             | <u>  </u> work in progress  | <u>  </u> educational   | <u>X</u> private residence |
| <u>  </u> site       | <b>Public Acquisition</b>  | <b>Accessible</b>           | <u>  </u> entertainment | <u>  </u> religious        |
| <u>  </u> object     | <u>  </u> in process       | <u>X</u> yes: restricted    | <u>  </u> government    | <u>  </u> scientific       |
|                      | <u>  </u> being considered | <u>  </u> yes: unrestricted | <u>  </u> industrial    | <u>  </u> transportation   |
|                      | <u>X</u> not applicable    | <u>  </u> no                | <u>  </u> military      | <u>  </u> other:           |

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Edward T. and Helen P. Newnamstreet & number 105 Cherry Street telephone no.:   city, town St. Michaels state and zip code MD 21663

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Talbot County Clerk of Court    liber   street & number Talbot County Courthouse    folio   city, town Easton state MD

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title   date       federal    state    county    local   depository for survey records   city, town    state

## 7. Description

Survey No. T-570

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☒ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

#### Galt House

The Galt house stands on the northwest corner of the intersection of Cherry and Cedar streets in the northern residential district of St. Michael, Talbot County, Maryland. The two-story, center hall house faces south with the hip roof oriented on an east/west axis.

The c. 1860, two-story, three-bay frame house rests on a partially excavated brick foundation, and it is sheathed with a uniform layer of vinyl siding. The steeply pitched hip roof is covered with seamed tin, and the boxed cornice is trimmed with bed and crown moldings. Attached to the west gable is a single-story addition, and a single-story service wing extends to the rear.

The south (main) elevation is a symmetrical three-bay facade covered on the first floor with a single-story hip roofed porch. Turned porch posts support the roof, and sawn baluster handrails stretch between each post. The porch roof is covered with seamed tin. Covered by the porch is the center sidelighted entrance and flanking nine over nine sash windows with louvered shutters. The second floor, on the other hand, is lighted by three evenly spaced six over six sash windows also flanked by louvered shutters. Centered on the roof is a large gabled dormer with a paired of four over four sash windows.

The west end of the house is marked by nine over nine sash windows on the first floor and six over six sash windows on the second floor. The two windows on each floor flank the interior end brick chimney. The stack is finished by a simple cap.

The north (rear) elevation is an asymmetrical facade with a story-and-a-half service wing. The back of the main block has a centrally located rear entrance covered by a single-story stoop with square posts and simple corner brackets. The adjacent (east) bay is filled with a six over six sash window, while the second floor is marked by identical six over six sash. The roof is marked by a large gabled dormer with a pair of four over four sash windows. The kitchen is two bays across by one room deep with an engaged porch and a steeply pitched seamed tin roof. A gabled dormer is located on each roof slope. Rising from the gable end is a narrow

Galt House description  
page 2

brick chimney. Piercing the gable end wall to each side are four over four sash windows. A modern window marks the first floor.

The west end of the main block is covered on the first floor by a single-story two-bay by one room addition covered with a medium sloped seamed tin roof. The wall surfaces are finished in a similar manner as the rest of the house.

The main block is divided by a center passage with a room to each side. The enclosed stair rises behind the dining room (west) along the north exterior wall. Each of the first floor rooms is finished with mid nineteenth-century woodwork. The four-panel doors that open into each room are framed by a molded surrounds with bulls-eye corner blocks. The east room or parlor has a mid nineteenth-century mantel with widely fluted pilasters and frieze topped by a thick mantel shelf. The space beneath the windows is paneled. Located across from the parlor is the dining room which is finished in a similar manner. The far room to the west has been converted to a bedroom, and the kitchen has been reworked.

The second floor is divided into two principal rooms that open off a rear passage. Four-panel doors are framed by plain surrounds with plain corner blocks. The rooms are fitted with ogee molded baseboards and post and lintel mantels. The kitchen loft is divided into two rooms that are finished in a plain manner.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. T-570

| Period  | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below    |   |   |  |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric          | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric  | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning     | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499            | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic     | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation           | <input type="checkbox"/> law                    | <input type="checkbox"/> science         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599            | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> economics              | <input type="checkbox"/> literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education              | <input type="checkbox"/> military               | <input type="checkbox"/> social/         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799            | <input type="checkbox"/> art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> music                  | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy             | <input type="checkbox"/> theater         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900–                | <input type="checkbox"/> communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government    | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation  |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> invention              |   | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |

### Specific dates

### Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Galt house is a prominent mid nineteenth-century frame house that stands on the corner of Cherry and Cedar streets in the northern neighborhood of St. Michaels. The standard two-story, three-bay main block is covered by an atypical hip roof which survives with its seamed tin sheathing. Other significant features include the period turned post front porch, nine over nine and six over six sash windows, and a story-and-a-half kitchen wing. The interior has survived with a large portion of its period woodwork. The stair location between the dining room and the north wall is an unusual variation of the center hall plan.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. T-570

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

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Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|-------|------|--------|------|

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|-------|------|--------|------|

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul Touart - Architectural Historian

organization Historic St. Michaels

date 10/30/85

street &amp; number

telephone

city or town St. Michaels

state MD 21663

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

Year: 1957 Vol: 341 Page: 16  
From: Bethine A Buck, widow Price: \$5  
To: Edward T and Helen P Newnam  
Notes: Two adjoining lots, now one. At Cedar Alley fronting on Cherry St. 87'; then 184' to Willow St; bounded on W by lot formerly E. Ney Dodson.

Conveyed to Buck by Mary D Lane, widow 1946, 267/399.

Year: 1946 Vol: 267 Page: 399  
From: Mary D Lane, widow Price: \$5  
To: Edward R Buck and Bethine A Buck  
Notes: Same description.

Conveyed to Mary D Lane by Jennings B Quillen and others 1945, 264/115.

Year: 1945 Vol: 264 Page: 115  
From: Jennings B Quillen and Lotus K Quillen et al Price: \$6000  
To: Mary D Lane, widow  
Notes: "et al" were: Fidelity Trust Co of Baltimore, Executor of Wm G Foster, dcd and Dwight S Beebe & Helen H Beebe.

Wm G Foster died leaving a will dtd 31 May 1938, 25/36. His extrs., Fidelity Trust Co sold the property to Kate Pingree Brown but sale was not completed. Her husband, Frederick Brown, also failed to qualify. Property was finally sold by assignee G Elbert Marshall to Mary D Lane along with other rights on the property which had descended to Dwight Beebe.

Year: 1925 Vol: 201 Page: 55  
From: John S McDaniel and wife Price: \$5000  
To: William G Foster  
Notes: Same description. First of the two lots conveyed to McDaniel by Daisey E Herman and Walter B Herman 1914, 168/270.

The second lot, adjoining it on the N was conveyed to Mc Daniel by E. Ney Dodson 1917, 175/178. The house is not on this lot.

MRS. GAULT - CHERRY STREET

PAGE TWO

Year: 1914 Vol: 168 Page: 270

From: Daisey S Herman and Walter B Herman Price: --

To: John S Mc Daniel

Notes: Begins at stone "NS" at SE corner of "Joseph's Lot" on Cherry Street; run with Cherry Street N 12.30 W 120'; then S 77.30 W 86'; then S 12.30 E 120' to Cherry Street; with Cherry Street to the beginning. (NOTE: The description is badly fouled. The stone should be "WS" and the first course should be perpendicular to Cherry Street !) The lot is also referred-to as Lot #13.

Conveyed to Sarah H Wyatt by Anna L Glasscock 1908, 153/122; on Wyatt's death the property went to her only daughter, Daisey S Herman. The interest of Sarah's husband, John H Wyatt was conveyed to Daisey 1909, 153/457.

1914, 168/271 is a mortgage by Mc Daniel to Talbot Bank for \$3000.

Year: 1908 Vol: 153 Page: 122

From: Anna L Glasscock and Arthur B Price: \$2100

To: Sarah H Wyatt

Notes: Same description as 1914, 168/270.

Conveyed to Anna L Glasscock by Sallie S S Covey 1908, 151/162.

1908, 151/162 is Glasscock's mortgage to Citizen's Bank of St Michaels for \$1600.

Year: 1908 Vol: 151 Page: 162

From: Sallie S S Covey Price: \$2100

To: Anna L Glasscock

Notes: Same description.

Conveyed to Sallie S S Covey by James H Covey 1906, 148/219.

Year: 1906 Vol: 148 Page: 219

From: James H Covey Price: \$5

To: Sallie S S Covey

Notes: Same description.

Conveyed to James H Covey by Walter Skinner 1878, 85/207

Year: 1878 Vol: 85 Page: 207  
From: Walter Skinner Price: \$2000  
To: James H Covey  
Notes: Same description.

Conveyed to Walter Skinner by Sallie S S Covey and James H Covey 1878,  
85/206.

A title clearance.

Year: 1878 Vol: 85 Page: 206  
From: Sallie S S Covey and James H Covey Price: \$2000  
To: Walter Skinner  
Notes: Same description.

Part of title clearance.

Conveyed to Sallie S S Covey by Sarah A Wrightson 1873, 78/454.

Year: 1873 Vol: 78 Page: 454  
From: Sarah A Wrightson Price: \$3150  
To: Sallie S S Covey  
Notes: Same description.

Conveyed to Sarah A Wrightson by Joseph B Seth, trustee 1867, 74/147.

Year: 1867 Vol: 74 Page: 147  
From: Joseph B Seth, trustee Price: \$2400  
To: Sarah A Wrightson  
Notes: Same description.

By decree of Circuit Court, August 1867 in case of James M Seth &  
Nicholas Orem vs Alexander H Seth and Martha A Seth. Joseph B Seth was appointed  
trustee to sell the property which was bought by Sarah A Wrightson.

Conveyed to Alexander H Seth by Thomas Auld 1859, 68/441

Year: 1859 Vol: 68 Page: 441

From: Thomas Auld and Ann Price: \$350

To: Alexander H Seth

Notes: Part of "Joseph's Lot". A lot formerly leased to William Skinner by Joseph and Mary Harrison on Cherry Street. On town plat #13.

Year: 1851 Vol: 63 Page: 474

From: Samuel Wrightson and Hester. Price: \$100

To: Thomas Auld

Notes: "A lot formerly leased to William Skinner by Joseph and Mary Harrison." On Cherry Street, # 13.

There is a break between this deed and the last one, the lease of 1804. As with other sales of land by Samuel Wrightson, the deed showing ownership of the property by Sam Wrightson has not been found.

Samuel Wrightson was the son of Eliza Wrightson (d. 1844). She was the daughter of Joseph (of Joseph) and Mary Harrison. Mary Harrison was the daughter of Thomas and Mary Harrison who were owners of "Joseph's Lot". In 1849, Samuel sold lot #1 on Mill Street which was devised to his mother Eliza by her father Joseph Harrison. Samuel probably inherited the Gault property through his mother but proof has not been found.

Year: 1804 Vol: 30 Page: 459

From: Joseph Harrison (of Joseph) and wife Price: lease

To: William Skinner

Notes: "Joseph's Lot" near St. Michaels Church. Begin at stone "WS" at the corner of two roads or ways intended to be established as streets or alleys; run with one now called an alley N 12.30 W 120 feet; then S 77.30 W 86 feet; then S 12.30 E 120 feet to the other road now called a street; then to the beginning.

Joseph Harrison (of Joseph) and his wife Mary (of Thomas) inherited the part of "Joseph's Lot" belonging to Thomas Harrison which was not already under lease. It is probable that Samuel Harrison Wrightson became the owner of part of this property through his mother Eliza, daughter of Joseph and Mary Harrison who had married Thomas Wrightson.

This is the first sale of the property as a lot. It was made the year the town was erected and the first survey made.

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DR. DODSON'S  
↓

T-570

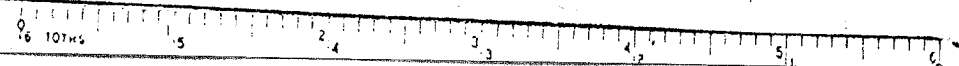
METHODIST  
CEMETERY

ST MARY'S  
SQUARE

MAP  
OF  
**ST. MICHAELS**

TALBOT CO. MARYLAND  
SCALE

JAN. 1 1923. THOMAS H. L. JARD



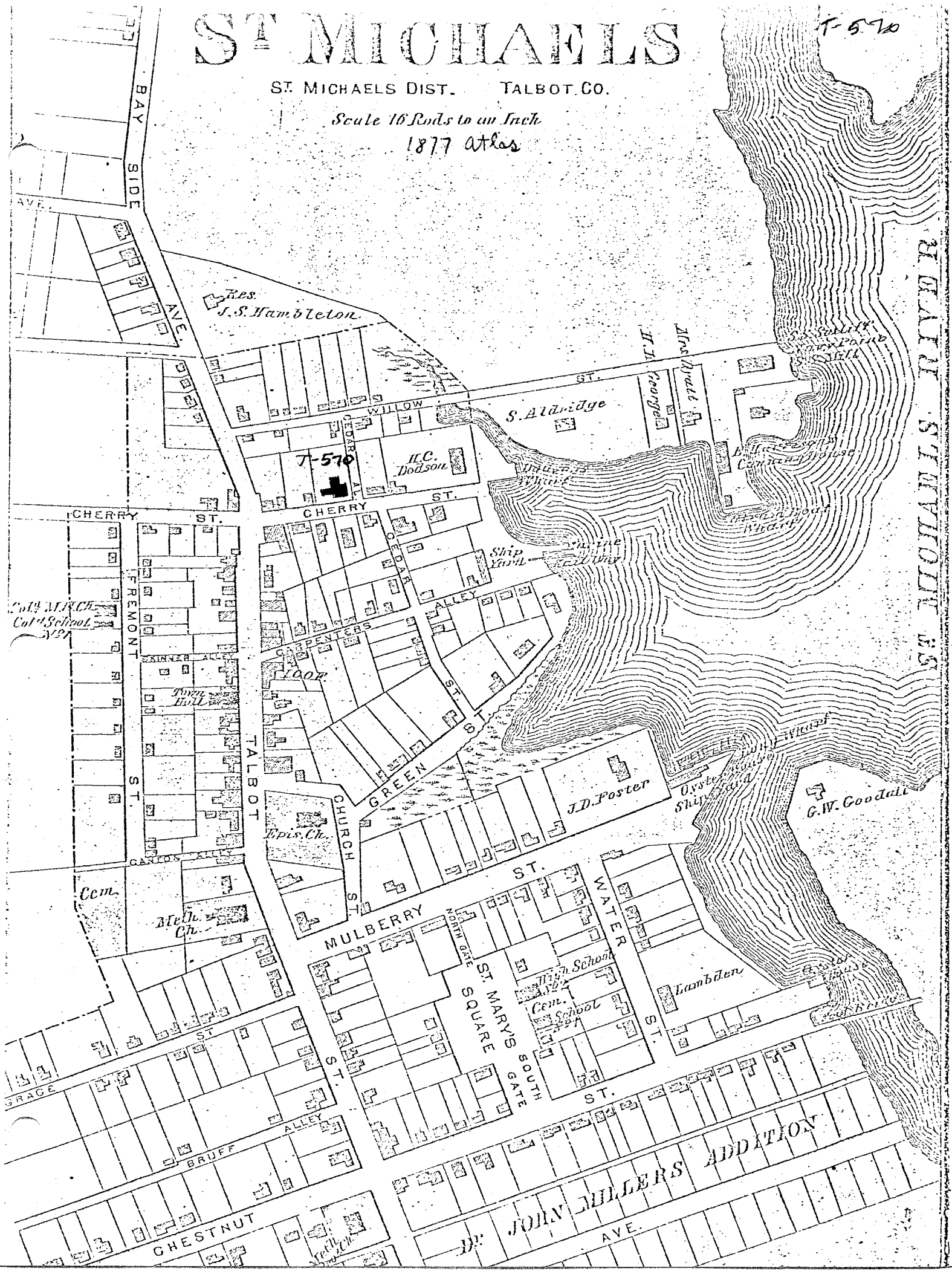
# ST MICHAELS

ST. MICHAELS DIST. TALBOT CO.

Scale 16 Rods to an Inch

1877 Atlas

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GALT HOUSE

T-570

St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland

Southeast Elevation

8/85, Paul Touart, Photographer

NEG/MD. Historical Trust



GALT HOUSE

T-570

St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland

Southwest Elevation

8/85, Paul Touart, Photographer

NEG/MD. Historical Trust



Galt House

T-570

St. Michaels, Talbot County, MD  
north Elevation

8/85 Paul Touart photographer  
negative/MD Historical Trust



GAlt House

T-570

St. Michaels, Talbot County, MD  
north Elevation

8/85 Paul Touart photographer  
negative/MD Historical Trust